

Message Text

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42

ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 SCA-01 SCS-03 H-02

EB-07 SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 AID-05 /054 R

DRAFTED BY L/C:TTFHUANG:MB

APPROVED BY E:CWROBINSON

NEA/EGY:GGBROWN (IN DRAFT)

L/C:FAKWIA TEK

L:GHALDRICH

L:MLEIGH

----- 112361

O 081455Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 084756

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CPRS, EG.

SUBJECT: CLAIMS AGAINST EGYPT: U.S. LETTER EXPRESSING
CONCERN OVER DELAY BY GOE APPROVING AGREEMENT

REF: CAIRO 4375

1. DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN OPTION C RECOMMENDED BY
AMBASSADOR IN PARA 3 OF REFTEL THAT LETTER BE SENT BY
UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON TO PRIME MINISTER SALEM EXPRESS-
ING CONCERN OF USG AND DESIRABILITY OF EXPEDITIOUS
APPROVAL/INITIALING BY GOE OF AGREEMENT AD REFERENDUM
ON CLAIMS OF U.S. NATIONALS AGAINST GOE.

2. IF THERE ARE NO OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED AMENDMENTS,
AMBASSADOR IS AUTHORIZED AND REQUESTED TO TRANSMIT FOLLOW-
ING REVISED LETTER FROM UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON TO PRIME
MINISTER SALEM:

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QUOTE DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER:

AS YOU KNOW, TALKS HAVE FOR SOME TIME BEEN CONDUCTED BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS AIMED AT SETTTLING THE OUTSTANDING PRIVATE CLAIMS ISSUE. I WAS

PLEASED TO HEAR THAT IN THE PAST DECEMBER THE JOINT UNITED STATES/EGYPTIAN COMMITTEE ON CLAIMS HAD REACHED AGREEMENT AD REFERENDUM FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF PRIVATE CLAIMS OF UNITED STATES NATIONALS. THE INITIALING OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WAS HELD UP BY THE EGYPTIAN SIDE BECAUSE OF CERTAIN MINOR MODIFICATIONS IN LANGUAGE IT DESIRED ON SEPARATE, BUT RELATED, MATTERS. IN AN EFFORT TO MEET THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT'S CONCERNS, MY GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED ALL THE PROPOSED CHANGES.

I HAVE BECOME DEEPLY CONCERNED, HOWEVER, AT THE CONTINUED FAILURE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT TO APPROVE AND INITIAL THE DRAFT AGREEMENT THAT WE HAD BEEN ASSURED HAS NOW BEEN FULLY AGREED UPON IN ALL RESPECTS. IT IS NOW TWO MONTHS SINCE THE MUTUALLY AGREED TEXT WAS NEGOTIATED. WORD OF THE IMMINENT CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THE PRIVATE CLAIMS OF UNITED STATES NATIONALS HAS LEAKED OUT AND WE ARE RECEIVING QUERIES FROM AMERICAN JOURNALISTS AND FROM CLAIMANTS ASKING ABOUT THE STATUS OF THESE CLAIMS. OUR CONTINUED INABILITY TO RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY IS DISTURBING TO THE CLAIMANTS, AND I MUST TELL YOU IN ALL CANDOR THAT SOME OF THEM WILL WRITE AND RESUME WRITING TO THEIR CONGRESSMEN TO EXPRESS THEIR DISPLEASURE. YOU WILL AGREE, I AM SURE, THAT BOTH OF US SHOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO AVOID UNNECESSARY ISSUES WHICH COULD LESSEN AMERICAN PUBLIC OR CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR AID REQUESTS FOR EGYPT.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THE DRAFT AGREEMENT NOW AWAITING THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT WAS WORKED OUT BY THE UNITED STATES AND EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATORS IN THE SPIRIT OF FRIENDLY COOPERATION CONCEIVED TO BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS TO ACHIEVE COMMON OBJECTIVES. THE TERMS AND PROVISIONS OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WERE AGREED TO BE FAIR AND EQUITABLE, AND TO MEET CONFIDENTIAL

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THE NEEDS OF BOTH SIDES. THE DRAFT AGREEMENT SEEKS TO MINIMIZE UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENTS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT AND TO ENABLE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT BY REMOVING CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED BY UNITED STATES LAW DUE TO OUTSTANDING CLAIMS OF UNITED STATES NATIONALS AGAINST EGYPT.

I STRONGLY URGE, MR. PRIME MINISTER, THAT YOU TAKE THE

NECESSARY ACTION TO ALLOW EXPEDITIOUS CONCLUSION OF THE
AGREEMENT SETTTLING THE PRIVATE CLAIMS OF UNITED STATES
NATIONALS. IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH OUR COUNTRIES
THAT THIS MATTER BE CONCLUDED WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.

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WITH WARM REGARDS,

SINCERELY,

CHARLES W. ROBINSON
DEPUTY SECRETARY

3. ONE PARAGRAPH OF EMBASSY DRAFT HAS BEEN CHANGED,
BECAUSE DEPARTMENT IS OF OPINION THAT USG SHOULD NOT
IMPLY THAT FAIR CLAIMS SETTLEMENT IS JUSTIFIABLE BY
REASON OF LARGE U.S. ECONOMIC AID. THIS IS TYPE OF
SETTLEMENT WE BELIEVE REASONABLE REGARDLESS OF AID.

4. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE BEING PROMPTLY INFORMED
OF PM SALEM'S REACTIONS. SISCO

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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